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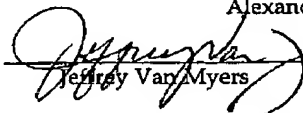
In re Application of:
Stuart D. Green, *et al.*
Serial No.: 09/624,923
Filed: 25 July 2000
For: Method for Communication
Security and Apparatus Therefor

10 May 2004

Art Unit: 2131
Examiner: C. Revak

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED THIS DAY WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450


Jeffrey Van Myers

10 May 2004
Date

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS

SIR:

In the Office Action of 10 February 2004 (Paper 3 -- "Office Action"), the Examiner:

1. Objected to the disclosure in that, in the section titled "Cross Reference to Related Application", the current status of such reference should be amended to reflect that it has become abandoned, which status has herein been so amended;
2. Rejected claims 1-4, 9-13, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Nessett, *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,968,176 ("Nessett"), in view of Sheldon, Non-Patent Document U ("Sheldon"), which rejection is hereinafter respectfully traversed; and
3. Rejected claims 5-8 and 14-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Nessett in view of Sheldon in further view of Joyce, U.S. Patent No. 6,519,703 ("Joyce"), which rejection is hereinafter also respectfully traversed.

Applicants are unable to understand why the Examiner has failed to indicate the status of claim 20 of the Application as filed. It would appear that, through some administrative oversight, claim 20 may have been overlooked. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider claim 20, as filed.

Amendment

In response to the Office Action, Applicants request entry of the following amendments.

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 5, after "hereof" add --, now abandoned --.

In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims:

21. (New) A communications security system to prevent transfer of selected communication transactions from an untrustworthy network to a trustworthy network, comprising:

- a server, connected to the untrustworthy network, that maintains a plurality of protection rules, each of which, when applied to a communication transaction, identifies that communication transaction to be a respective one of the selected communication transactions; and

- a portal, connected between the untrustworthy network and the trusted network, that:

- cooperates with the server to transfer the database of protection rules from said server to the portal via said untrustworthy network;

- receives a communication transaction from the untrustworthy network for transfer to the trustworthy network;

- applies each of the protection rules to the received communication transaction; and

- selectively transfers to the server at least a portion of the received communication transaction via the untrustworthy network if a protection rule identifies the received communication transaction to be a respective one of the selected communication transactions.

22. (New) A portal for use in a communications security system to selectively transfer a communication transaction in accordance with a protection rule maintained by a server, the portal:

- transferring the protection rule from said server;

- receiving the communication transaction;

- applying the protection rule to the received communication transaction;

- preventing the transfer of the received communication transaction if required by the protection rule; and

- selectively transferring to the server at least a portion of the received communication transaction even if the protection rule allows transfer of the received communication transaction.

23. (New) A communications security method wherein a portal selectively transfers a communication transaction in accordance with a first protection rule maintained by a server, comprising: